Walk, Roger

From: Zhang, Mingda
Sent: Friday, October 29, 1999 9:34 AM
To: Walk, Roger
Subject: FW: Support for a multicenter epidemiological study on nonsmokin female lung cancer in China

Roger,

As discussed attached is the note I sent to Ted in August on the China study.

Regards,

Mingda

-----Original Message-----
From: Zhang, Mingda
Sent: Wednesday, August 04, 1999 5:53 PM
To: Sanders, Edward
Subject: Support for a multicenter epidemiological study on nonsmokin female lung cancer in China

Dear Ted,

CIAR has supported a pilot phase of a multi-center epidemiological case-control study on lung cancer among Chinese female nonsmokers in China. The main focus of the study was on indoor air, passive smoking, diet and individual susceptibility. The preliminary results of this pilot study were presented in a national cancer epidemiology conference in June 1999.

It is my understanding that upon the completion of the pilot study the Chinese scientists involved planned to submit a proposal for a full study to CIAR this year. However, CIAR will no longer be able to support the full study as required by the Master Settlement Agreement. I think the study is of high scientific quality and there are good business reasons for PM to consider funding the project. I propose to have the investigators submit the project to the SRRC for consideration. The following are my information and opinions on the proposed study:

Study design

The project was originally designed as a prospective case-control epidemiological study on lung cancer among Chinese female nonsmokers involving 4 major cities in different regions of China. The study was planned to include a total of >1000 newly diagnosed lung cancer cases in 3 years with a proposed budget estimate of around or below USD 400,000. The principle investigators of the pilot study were:

- Dr. Yingxiu Du, Guangzhou Medical College, Guangzhou
- Dr. Yutang Gao, Shabghai Cancer Institute, Shanghai
- Dr. Xinzhou He, Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine, Beijing
- Dr. Zhaoyi Xu, China Medical University, Shenyang

Scientific strength

The smoking prevalence among Chinese women is low (<5%) while their lung cancer incidence rate is among the highest for females in the world. A diverse list of risk factors for lung cancer have been identified in nonsmoking Chinese females and the risk factors are likely vary for different regions of China with diverse climate and cultural settings. Previous epidemiological studies on lung cancer among nonsmokers in China are generally limited in the size and consideration for various risk factors. This proposal attempted to address all these issues by designing a large-scale study with statistical power (> 1000 cases) that takes major known lung cancer risk factors into consideration. Another strength of the study was the involvement of an international Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) composed of well-known

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scientists such Dr. Linda Koo, Dr. Genevieve Matanoski and Dr. Ragner Rylander.

Business justification

Allegations on the health impact of ETS exposure, often not supported by solid scientific data, have widely been cited as the basis for public smoking restrictions all over the world. In particular, the potential association of ETS exposure and human lung cancer among nonsmokers has been the subject of heated scientific debate for many years. Carefully designed large-scale epidemiological studies, such the one proposed by the Chinese scientists, are essential in clarifying the issue.

Generally speaking the tobacco industry has not lost all it's scientific credibility in the Asia region yet. Supporting such high quality scientific research in the region would help to reduce the further erosion of the remaining scientific credibility of the industry. To my knowledge SRRC has not funded any scientific research in the Asia region yet and I think this project would represent a good starting point.

I would appreciate receiving feed backs on my proposal and will initiate contacts with the scientists in China if and when appropriate.

Mingda

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